

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on November 7, 2005, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 20-24 and 31-38 were pending. By this paper, Applicants do not add or cancel any claims. Therefore, claims 20-24 and 31-38 remain pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Gray for allowing claims 20, 22-24, 31-32 and 34-38.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 21 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As seen above, claims 21 and 33 have been amended, without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of these amendments. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that with the introduction of the language “the step of” in the claims, there can be no ambiguity as to whether the subject language is drawn to the coating *step* or the coating *layer*. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

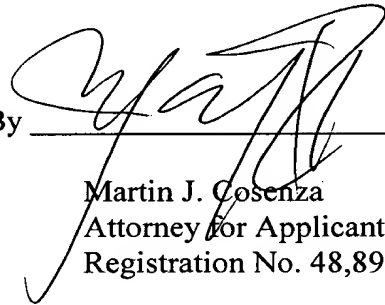
Examiner Gray is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By



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